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THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

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at, Pointe au Pic,
P. Que., Canada.

16th July, 1942.

Miss Bertha L. Lyons,
The Hall of Fame,
New York University,
17 E. 80th Street,
New York City, New York.

Dear Miss Lyons:

Pardon the delay in my reply to your letter of June 23rd, but as I have no regular secretary here, it is not easy to keep up with the rather large mail.

I agree with you that it is desirable that the information I sent to the electors of the Hall of Fame, concerning Miss Barton, should be eventually made public. The only difficulty is that, just at the time when we are in the midst of so much activity by the Red Cross, the Central Committee might feel it not an opportune moment to bring out the unfortunate story of the past. Moreover, as I have no data here, it would be difficult for me to make an accurate statement of certain facts without dates, etc. I regret, of course, and always have that the investigating committee accepted the proposal of Miss Barton's representative to have the hearings behind closed doors - it ought to have come out officially. However, I have in Washington records of the hearings and, of course, much other data. I have always felt that it was very difficult to accept the situation as it now stands - a film had lately been made of Miss Barton's life. Miss Barton never had anything to do with the old Sanitary Commission in the Civil War, but got funds, as a free lance, collecting money through appeals to the Worcester newspapers, and naturally money sent that way from individuals would probably never be audited, or reports of expenditures made - at least I have never heard of them.

I have started to write down my own associations and connections with the Red Cross, bringing in the story of my own personal experiences with Miss Barton and the early organisation. I have in Washington, letters and data that I shall have to use, but I have not those here. I do not know, as I have said, whether the Central Committee would be opposed to any publishing of these facts at present. Personally, I always believe that skeletons in closets are not acceptable and it would be better to simply bring the whole matter out. The fault does not lie in the discovery, but in the deed.

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I am returning the clipping that you kindly sent me
and shall not forget to let you have whatever we may be able to
eventually publish.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mabel T. Boardman